

## This Changes Everything: Part 2

### Their Story Transformed: Acts 7

God's presence and power through His Spirit changes everything. How could we possibly resist what He's doing?

Stephen exposes 3 of Israel's great idols:

#### 1. Territory

"The key was God, His will and His guidance, not the place of blessing." –Bruce Barton.

They focused on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Torah

They focused on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. Temple

They focused on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.

The Israelites focused on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore continually missed what God was doing right in their midst.

#### Application:

It's not that they thought too highly of these things, but too lowly of God. Jesus' territory is all **creation**, His law is **love** and His temple is His **people**.

## Life Group Questions

### ***This week, before you go to your Life Group:***

Commit to reading through the Book of Acts over the next month. Last week we read Acts 1-5. This week read Acts 6-10. What are some of the things you learned by reading this section? Make some notes of questions, observations and key themes!

### ***Life Group Discussion Questions:***

Who are the main characters that Stephen uses to illustrate the story of Israel in his speech? Can you summarize each of the stories in a few sentences? What are some of the themes that you see throughout the speech? How would you summarize this speech in 1 sentence? What can we learn from Stephen's use of these stories? Spend some time trying to explain why Stephen uses the details that he does. What do they add to his point?

Stephen calls his audience stubborn and says that they have resisted the Holy Spirit (verse 51). While they focused so much on their territory, Torah and temple, they had lost sight of God. In what ways are we tempted to do this in our culture today? What are some parallels between the original audience and us?

We are often tempted to take good things and make them idols, just like some of the Israelites had with their territory, Torah and Temple. What are some of the good things that we have, that we sometimes make into ultimate things (idols)?

How can we remind ourselves and each other that God is so much greater than anything in all creation? What is one way that you can keep your eyes fixed on the unsurpassable worth of Jesus?